

From: fouts
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 2:13pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

January 17,2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my feelings about the settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. Honestly, I thought the whole thing was ridiculous to begin with, but seeing as Microsoft is satisfied with the settlement that has been arrived at, I won't reopen old wounds. It does cause me some concern, however, that the impending threat of further litigation exists. I am shocked that the nine states that are considering such action have the gall to suggest that the settlement was in any way unfair to Microsoft's competitors. Microsoft agreeded to a very wide spectrum of terms in the settlement, some of which were not even at issue in the antitrust case, simply in the interest of wrapping up the suit. Intellictual property rights are to be licensed to competitors, the Windows operating system is to be reformatted to support non-Microsoft software, and Microsoft has agreed not to take normal retaliatory measures against anyone who introduces directly competing software onto the market.

I believe that justice can demand no further satisfaction from the Microsoft Corporation. The Department of Justice needs to let the settlement carry through and move on. I urge you to please support the agreement so they can do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Fouts
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